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## **Understanding and Implementing the Spiritual Legacy of John E. Fetzer (January 18, 2013)**

It is my contention that the spiritual legacy of John Fetzer has been better understood by the Trustees over the past twenty years than perhaps we are giving ourselves credit for. This brief essay will take a look at this notion, in two parts:

- I. The legacy, as laid out in John's September 1989 "Founders Statement" made to his board a few months before he died.
- II. The contemporary translation of the legacy by the Trustees over the past 20 years.

### **The legacy as laid out in John Fetzer's September 29, 1989 "Founders Statement"**

The memo began with "First Principles" which have clear, albeit symbolic/Masonic, underpinnings:

Let us look for a moment at the Foundation, and at its symbol and its meaning. We have a triangle, and that triangle has three points of service, within the foundation—of body, mind and Spirit. And yet, within that triangle is the four square that also makes up the activities of the Foundation—of working within humankind on a physical, emotional, mental and spiritual level.

We must always keep the triangle purpose foremost, and search for that completion of the four square within.

Then John went into what his Legacy was *not*:

Let me tell you what the Foundation is not. The Foundation is not here to duplicate that which is being done by others. This cannot be over emphasized. The world of is full of organizations and programs, addressing every conceivable surface problem known... Scores of requests for grants have come for programs representing a multiplicity of disciplines, all of which can be *construed* as helping to bring balance in accordance with our stated purpose.

After his "First Principles," John went into specifics about the Institute's mission at the time, circa 1989.

Then John went into his "Final Principles," writing in esoteric terms about what the Legacy *was*:

1. First (paragraph one), Spirit's challenge to Fetzer: that the "ring of truth," i.e., the Holy Spirit, is trying to create this Fetzer "Community of Freedom," whose mission is to find the "balance *within* and without" in its action in the world.

2. Second, John laid out the two things the group was specifically to do:

- a. (paragraph two) “The group must come together and make a settlement within themselves as to a sense of participation”—that is, whether to actually meet this challenge from Spirit.
  - b. (paragraph three) To “cry out for freedom” so that the “the consciousness of liberation is stirred within” and “turns in a spiral of consciousness, and brings one up into the higher focus” within. This is a clear call by John for his Trustees to do inner practice.
3. Third (in paragraph four), John affirmed that if we do our part, then Spirit would join in: The “avatar” (perhaps the Archangel Michael?) is delivering to us, in a hermetic spirit-physical “symmetry,” the “consciousness of synthesis”—that is, bringing the spiritual energy of the Holy Spirit down to us, to all of us who participate in doing the things John lays out above.
4. And finally (in paragraph five), from the highest perspective John could muster, what this spiritual process is: “Unconditional Love”—the Holy Spirit coming into and through us, “because love is the unifying energy field, that mobilizes the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual resources in the caring and sharing with one another.”

And so, John’s stated legacy, in my opinion, is that of bringing the inner spiritual component to bear, in a non-sectarian way, to the human enterprise, so that in this process the Holy Spirit may intervene. And the strong implication is that *this* is the way to raise the human condition.

### **The translation of the legacy by the Trustees over the past 20 years**

I think the various Trustees of “Fetzer Inc.” have always understood this legacy.

The evidence for this is the Trustee-written Fetzer “Guiding Purpose,” which has clearly “caught” the essence of the Fetzer Legacy: “To awaken into and serve Spirit” including the action-principle of “the integration of the inner life of the Spirit and mind and the outer work of action and service.” This implies that the Fetzer focus, the unique Fetzer component, is the notion that the inner component is the key component in causing actual and sustainable transformation in the world.

I believe all of us understand the Fetzer legacy well enough—*that of bringing this inner-spiritual component to bear in solving the problems of the human condition.*

The essential thing, in my opinion, is for us Trustees to keep reminding ourselves of the importance—and the uniqueness—of this spiritual legacy of John Fetzer’s. Any spiritual legacy is difficult to hold to and to implement over time; and so it needs constant remembrance and reinforcement—not differently, really, than do our own personal spiritual pursuits. The “lower” is always path easier to pursue than the “higher,” and therefore there must be continual vigilance not to “default” to the lower, easier way.

I strongly believe it is our role as “the group,” as the Trustees, to remember John’s legacy, to keep it fresh, and to hold to it.